C. T. Torrey

PHELPS MSS.

Salem, Nov. Saturday - 16th 1838

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Dear Brother Phelps -

[About the paper - I have this plan to propose - Have a letter of inquiry, lithographed, and a 500 or 1000 copies or so struck off - embracing an informal prospectus stating the place of publication i.e. Boston & size and price - and embracing the following queries - and more if need be - 1 - ought we not to have a new paper, to be the official organ of the Mass. A. S Society? 2. ought it not to be confined to the discussion of Slavery and the remedy for Slavery - and to these alone? 3. What would be the prospect of such a paper, & how many subscribers do you think could be obtained for it in your town or vicinity? In case such an one is established in safe hands, will you aid in giving it circulation? 4. Will you consult with judicious men in various places, & come prepared to give their views and vote on the project at the annual meeting in Jan. 24th 1839? 5. How many other Anti Slavery papers are taken in your place? & what are they? and about how many of each? - 6. No design to injure the Liberator - which is an independent paper. But to furnish a purely anti Slavery paper - which may not meet with objections to its universal circulation among all denominations of Christians, like the Emancipator & Friend of Man - 7. If the Liberator can be made a purely Anti-Slavery paper, and better edited, & made the official organ, no new paper to be established - If it is to continue to private property & open to every thing, then a new paper at once. — It may not be prudent to mention all these items — & others may suggest themselves to you — I throw off these hints of the thing, just as they have been floating in my mind a week or two back. — I will bear 1/3 of the expense of such a circular — or half of it — if a 3d person cannot be found —

The noise we made about our proposed County paper, broke the ice in this County — and the tide is setting now in favor of a new paper — Pettibone writes me that some of the warmest Garrisonites in Andover, are now in favor of it — this will be true of pious men, everywhere — I am certain we could reckon upon a large subscription in this County.

"Consider the matter; take advice (if you need any) and then speak your mind" *freely* as always — so now — I cannot rest easy till the thing is accomplished in some shape — Every new Society we start now, every old one made more efficient, creates a demand for a paper — and I can with difficulty bear to be instrumental in the introduction of this non resistance fanaticism, into minds who *trust* us, because of their love to our common Lord & the poor bondman —

— We have not done badly, notwithstanding

Whittier threw his whole strength against us, in regard to Cushing's election — and the Lynn Record, in respect to this district pursued a course equally detestable — or rather much more so — It was rife with political slang — I think our friends threw nearly a thousand votes for true men — But for Whittier, Cushing would have gone abegging for his election — In regard to Senators the result is what we expected — tho' not what it would have been, could we have made known the views of Caldwell and Newhall, on Temperance, in season —

Pretty well for a beginning — do better next time —

Yours very truly

Chas. T. Torrey —

P.S. Mrs T's little book is out — Crocker & Brewster — pd 2nd. Some of our Whigs here backed out — are now making ridicule of our whole movement, to cover up their own want of principle — Some few Van-ites also backed out, when they found Hale, & Rowe, & Jewett & a few others, did not keep their faith.

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Ms. A.21.8.86

(ch Box 83)

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Rev. A. A. Phelps.
Boston,
Mass.